

Cockermouth.—A correspondent of the *Carlisle Journal* says that there is at last some prospect of an end being put to the unhappy divisions which have so long existed in this borough with respect to the most suitable plan to be adopted for building a church. The incumbent has stepped between the dissenting parties, and "has expressed his determination that the town shall no longer be without a church. He is most sanguine of being able to raise the necessary funds, and in that case he will build the church upon his own responsibility."

Strathdon.—The laying of the foundation-stone of the new church, now erecting in this parish, took place on 9th inst. The church will cost upwards of 2,000*l*.

St. Helier's.—In the *Jersey Times*, a correspondent, "Medicus," mentions that the cemetery of this thickly inhabited town is already filled, though appropriated but a few years since, and that it is proposed to convert the rectory meadow into additional burying-ground. This "Medicus" protests against from its proximity to the town, its low situation, and undrained state, causes certain, as he remarks, to render fever and other severe forms of disease endemic around it.

Stirling.—The first stone of a new Free Church has been laid here. It stands in front of the railway station, on a rising plot of land belonging to the Bank of Scotland. The church consists of nave with north and south aisles, an apse for the choir and vestry, and a lofty steeple united to the south aisle. The nave is lighted by a range of clerestory windows, with a large western window. The aisle windows are segment-headed, and the church is arranged to accommodate 1180 worshippers. On a level with the street is an entrance to a large presbytery-room for week-night lectures and the secular business of the church. The church is approached by returned flights of steps (owing to the rising nature of the ground) through arched gateways. The contracts have been taken by Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Morrison, at the sum of 3,170*l*.: the architects are the Messrs. Hay.

Glasgow.—St. Matthew's Free Church was opened on Sunday last. It is the production of Messrs. Black and Salmon, architects, and is in the Decorated style of pointed architecture, with a tower and spire rising to an elevation of 200 feet. The lateral portions of the edifice are finished with buttresses and embattled parapets—the session-house and vestry varying the outline. The interior of the church measures about 90 feet in length by 60 feet in breadth. The width is divided into a central nave and two side aisles, the nave rising to an altitude of 53 feet. The roof is groined, the groins springing from piers and vaulting shafts, having foliated capitals, and the intersections enriched with bosses. The pulpit is surmounted by a canopied screen. The large south window, which is filled with stained glass in the Decorated style, with geometric bands, diapered grounds, and rich bordering. The aisle windows are also filled with stained glass, and the ceiling, walls, and timber-work, have been brought to a tone of colour in harmony with the glass. The stained glass, by Mr. Ballantine, of Edinburgh, is one of his most successful efforts. The painting is by Mr. Wardlaw; the mason-work by Mr. Rennie.

Miscellaneous.—The following consecrations have recently taken place:—By the Bishop of Chester, the new Church of St. Thomas, Wigan, containing upwards of 800 sittings, more than one-third free. By the Bishop of Chichester, two new burial-grounds at Worthing and at Littlehampton. By the Bishop of Bangor, the new Church erected at Dolgelly, by the daughter of the late Robert Vaughan Richards, in accordance with the wish of her parent.—The foundation-stone of a new Church has been laid at Kidmore, near Caversham, Berks.—At a large meeting held at Eton, the Rev. Dr. Hawtrey in the chair, a subscription was opened for building an additional Church for that parish, at an expense of 5,000*l*., two-fifths of which are already subscribed.

JURORS' AWARDS IN THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

ALTHOUGH we have already had our share of the dreaded reflections and complaints as to the awards of the jurors, and although these are also manifesting themselves here and there throughout the provinces, we were scarcely prepared for so bitter an attack on the commissioners as that which appears in the French government organ, the *Constitutionnel*, which accuses them, not only of a disposition to underrate the beauties of French manufacture, but to practise gross and undisguised favouritism, to the prejudice of French exhibitors. There is a vanity which no awards would satisfy, short of both the lion's share and the pickings. We were prepared for grumbings from all quarters rather than from Paris.

Amongst ourselves it is complained that "Mrs. Haigt, the fortunate exhibitor of a well-made shirt from the United States, or an exhibitor of 'lambs' tails oil,' a 'clay tobacco pipe,' a 'wedding cake,' a 'box of sweetmeats,' a 'walking stick,' a 'pail,' or a 'broom,' receives a medal of equal value with that awarded for the crystal fountain of Messrs. Oaler, the beautiful pianofortes of Messrs. Broadwood and Messrs. Collard, the effective railway break of Mr. Lee, the porcelain and statuary of Messrs. Copeland and Messrs. Rose, Ericsson's new motive power and his other highly valuable and philosophical inventions, and the nationally important and commercially valuable inventions of the Chevalier Clausen."

This, however, is exactly what the commissioners desire as the only means of remedying the error of having determined to give prizes at all.

Among the malcontents is Alderman Copeland, named in the quotation just given from a morning paper, who complains that a prize, or jury medal only, has been awarded to the productions of his establishment, while that of Messrs. Minton has been honoured with a council medal, which, the complainant observes, is regarded by the public generally as indicating a better manufacturer or producer than others to whom the prize medal only has been given. He reminds the commissioners that in conjunction with his colleague, Mr. Ricardo, as members for Stoke-upon-Trent, he protested against the constitution of the jury,—"a protest signed by every exhibitor (from the Potteries), with, I believe, one solitary exception, and that exception, now the recipient of a council medal."

The sum devoted to the purchase of objects from the Exhibition to serve as models for study in the Schools of Design, is said to be 5,000*l*. We hope that this will not be the only sum devoted to a purpose so much in harmony with the very objects and ends of the Exhibition itself.

A memorial emanating from the leading merchants in England, it is said, is to urge on the commission the importance of forming a collection of objects likely to extend and facilitate trade.

Steps, it appears, have been taken at New York for holding an exhibition next year, preparatory to an international one, designed also to be held in the United States. We suspect that France will be the scene of the next really International Exhibition. The Americans, however, merit a preference, were they not so far distant from all the rest of the world most likely to contribute to such an exhibition; for they appear to be the first who have actually taken any steps towards its realization. Moreover, it is said that Spain, Austria, Rome, and some of the German states have given their assent to the proposal. The building is to be of iron and glass like that in Hyde-park, but not on so great a scale, and is to be erected in the centre of New York.

Autograph letters of a highly complimentary character have been addressed by his Royal Highness Prince Albert to various gentlemen who have greatly exerted themselves to promote the success of the Exhibition. The Prince announces his intention of presenting each with a gold medal: to Dr. Lyon Playfair he further offers the position of gentleman usher, vacant in his household by the appointment of Colonel Reid to the governorship of

Malta. The clear intention of Prince Albert, in this new appointment, is to show that, so far as lies in his power, men of science shall not be neglected, but shall have the offer of a due share of such honour or emolument as he has to give. Such offices are likely, therefore, henceforth to have another sort of lustre shed on them than heretofore.

A HINT TO ARCHITECTURAL AUTHORS.

THE architectural writers of the present day are apt to show themselves exceedingly negligent in one respect, and inattentive to the convenience of their readers, it having become usual with them to omit that very essential appendage to all books of the kind—an *Index*. Fergusson's "True Principles," &c., Freeman's "History of Architecture," Garbett's "Principles of Design," Talbot Bury's "Styles of Architecture," are, in consequence of the omission of indexes to them, rendered far less available for the purpose of study, being impossible to refer readily to any particular matter or passage; so that, unless the reader makes a sort of index for himself as he goes through the book, he has every time the trouble of actually hunting out for what he might otherwise turn to at once. Just the same is it with Ruskin's "Seven Lamps," and also the "Stones of Venice,"—at least as far as the first volume is concerned; and as both these works touch upon a great multiplicity of matters, the want of facility of reference is a most serious inconvenience, although it does not seem to have been felt as such by the reviewers, probably because, notwithstanding their professed admiration, they have been satisfied with a single cursory perusal.

Let us hope that, in case of new editions of any of the works above mentioned, or of similar ones in the like predicament, an index will be introduced; if only because such addition would warrant the words "improved edition" on the title-page, even though the book should in all other respects remain the same as before.

ZETA.

THE CLOISTER COURT—NEW HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

THE Cloister Court, in the Palace of Westminster, offers the most elaborate elevation to be found throughout the building. The other inner courts, it will be remembered, are a very plain and bald. This is for the most part a restoration by Mr. Barry of the old work which had been miserably altered, patched, and disfigured by previous architects. Our view represents the Court as seen from the south-east, and includes the Chantry Chapel.

In Britton and Brayley's very interesting "History of the Ancient Palace and late Houses of Parliament at Westminster," extracts are given from the account of William de Chayllowe, surveyor of the king's works in the Palace of Westminster, amongst which, under the date 1325, appears the following:

"For the chapel of the palace, with the new altar. For timber for the new altar (cloister) between the king's chamber and the chapel; for stone, as well of Caen as of Rye; for lime, sand, iron, coals, plaster of Paris, carriage of materials, and for wages, in all 376*l*. 5*s*. 0*d*." And again in the following year:—"For the chapel: in timber, stone, lime, sand, iron, coal, in lead to cover the new altar, and in carriage of materials and the wages of workmen, 153*l*. 3*s*. 4*d*."

In this work the cloisters are very fully illustrated by a large number of engravings. The court is 49 ft. 6 in. from east to west, and 63 ft. from north to south. The width of the cloister is 12 ft. 8 in.

The masonry of the other parts of the Palace of Westminster is proceeding gradually; the clock tower grows and grows, and promises to have a somewhat attenuated effect. A few nights ago, when we passed over the crumbling Westminster-bridge, there was a cloudy sky and a bright moon; the width of the Thames was marked by the lamps on the bridges and on the shores, reflected in the still streaks of light on the water; and the immense pile, which is now beginning to take its real outline, produced a grand effect.